



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,983	03/14/2002	Florence L'Alloret	220759USOPCT	4740
22850	7590	06/29/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EGWIM, KELECHI CHIDI	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1713		

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/069,983	L'ALLORET, FLORENCE
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Dr. Kelechi C. Egwim	1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 44-49 and 104-148 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 44-46, 104, 110, 116, 119, 125, 126, 131, 134-136, 143 and 144 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims withdrawn from consideration are 47-49,105-109,111-115,117,118,120-124,127-130,132,133,137-142 and 145-148.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/25/2005 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 44-46, 104, 110, 116, 119, 125, 126, 131, 134-136 and 143-144 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Merchant Jr. et al., Yamamoto et al., Breneman et al., Koerner et al., Fogel et al. or Maroy et al. (EP '814 or EP '649), for reasons stated in the Final action.

### ***Double Patenting***

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the

unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 44-46, 104, 110, 116, 119, 125, 126, 131, 134-136 and 143-144 remain provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 25-67 of copending Application No. 10/069,981, for reasons stated in the Final rejection.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 05/25/2005 have been considered but they are not fully persuasive.

6. Applicant states that "Merchant describes a maleic anhydride grafted to an alkyl phenol formaldehyde resin", however, this only one of the LCST containing water-soluble polymer taught in Merchant, including oxyalkylated amines, glycol resin esters, oxyalkylated polyols and oxyalkylated alky-phenol formaldehyde resins. The oxyalkylated alky-phenol formaldehyde resins (taught in col. 6) of Merchant are not limited to the p-nonyl phenyl formaldehyde resin of Example 1.

7. Regarding Yamamoto et al., contrary to applicant's statements, in the copolymer of vinylpyrrolidone and vinyl acetate, while vinyl acetate does form water soluble units, the vinylpyrrolidone units represent an LCST unit as defined by applicant. As a matter of fact, vinylpyrrolidone units represent some of applicant's preferred LCST units.
8. Regarding Breneman et al., the water-soluble units and the LCST units are one in the same. The ether groups satisfy the requirements for both of the required units of the polymer.
9. Regarding Koerner, the particular polymer of example 8 has a cloud point at a higher concentration than the concentration recited in the claims. These are not the same concentrations for the lack of a cloud point required in applicant's claims. Also, col. 5, lines 27-34 list other LCST containing water-soluble polymer that satisfy the structural requirements of the polymers in the rejected claims.
10. Regarding Fogel, applicant appears to be ignoring the polyoxyethylene portions of the water-soluble polymers, i.e., wherein y is from 1 to 20. The reference itself teaches cloud points less than about 15°C, which is well within the range recited in the present claims.

11. Regarding the Maroy publications, the Examiner fails to find any specific teachings of demixing temperatures above 40°C at 1% by mass in water as suggested by applicant. However, it is reasonable that the LCST units of Maroy et al., would possess the presently claimed properties since the LCST units are identical to applicants. An otherwise old composition is still not patentable regardless of any new or unexpected properties.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kelechi C. Egwim whose telephone number is (571) 272-1099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T (7:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KELECHI C. EGWIM PH.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

KCE

